

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                  |   |   |                                  |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Art Unit:        | Unknown   | ) |                                  |
| Examiner:        | Unassigned yet  | ) |                                  |
| Inventor:        | Koichi Ito et al  | ) |                                  |
| Serial No:       | Unassigned yet  | ) | <b>PRELIMINARY<br/>AMENDMENT</b> |
| Filed:           | January 12, 2001  | ) |                                  |
| For:             | Air Passage Switching Device And<br>Vehicle Air Conditioner | ) |                                  |
| Attorney Docket: | 4041J-000354  | ) |                                  |

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 12, 2001.*

By \_\_\_\_\_

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application on its merits, please  
amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add the following New Claim 13:

**13.** An air passage switching device according to claim 5, wherein said door  
plate supports said film member along a curved periphery, said openings having a curved  
periphery matching that of said film member.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 12 are pending in the present application. Applicants have added Claim 13 to more clearly recite certain aspects of the present invention.

Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant would submit that all Claims are in a condition for allowance and thus Applicant requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present amendment he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.



H. Keith Miller, Reg. No. 22,484  
Michael J. Schmidt, Reg. No. 34007

1/12/01  
Date

P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303  
(248) 641-1600

Attorney Docket No. 4041J-000354